P-4154P1

OEC 1 0 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: R. W. MARSH ET AL.

Serial No.:

09/823,199

Art Unit:

1641

Filed:

Dear Sir:

MAR. 30, 2001

Examiner:

A. Y. LAM

For:

VARIABLE EXTENSION COMBINED SPINAL/

EPIDURAL NEEDLE SET AND METHOD FOR ITS USE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

DEC 1 2 2003

RESPONSE

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

This is in response to the Office action dated June 17, 2003. Enclosed is a Petition for a three-month extension of time. A continuation application is being filed on date even herewith to continue prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted

James J. Muntha Reg. No. 35, 769

Becton Dickinson and Company

1 Becton Drive Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880 201-847-7160 December 5, 2003

December 5, 2003 #72865